ABSTRACT

A polarization component, capable of efficiently reflecting an obliquely transmitted light beam toward a light source without degrading the transmission–polarization property of a perpendicular incident light beam, is provided. A C–plate having an oblique retardation of at least $\lambda/8$ with respect to a light beam inclined by at least 30° is disposed between at least two reflective circular polarizer layers whose selective reflection wavelength bands of polarized light overlapping each other. A combination of a reflective linear polarizer and a quarter wavelength plate may be used instead of the reflective circular polarizer. Alternatively, a combination of two reflective linear polarizer layers and two quarter wavelength plate layers ($Nz \geq 2$) disposed therebetween can provide a similar effect. Further, a combination of two reflective linear polarizer layers and a half wavelength plate ($Nz \geq 1.5$) disposed therebetween may be used. When reflective linear polarizer layers are used, they must be bonded together with their axial directions set at a certain angle. The polarization component is preferably used in various image display apparatuses such as liquid crystal display apparatuses and organic EL display apparatuses.